

SECURITY INFORMATION

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

25X1

1. In the summer of 1951, [redacted] in the event of hostilities, Opava was to be the seat of the Czech government. [redacted] Of all the cities in Czechoslovakia, Opava suffered the most damage during World War II, although most of the municipal buildings were left intact. 25X1

2. The city of Opava gets its water from the nearby river of the same name. The water reservoir and pump station are located on a small hill near the town cemetery [Encl. (A), Point #1]. The water filter station [Encl. (A), Point #2] is located in the city park near the river. The water pressure is quite low, and water was in considerably shorter supply during the summer months. In 1951 an official decree prohibited the use of water from the public supply for gardens, and the streets were not sprinkled during this period.
3. The gas works [Encl. (A), Point #3] are situated across from the East Railway Station [Encl. (A), Point #4]. As far as I know, there was always an ample supply of natural gas. Immediately after World War II, gas street lights were replaced by electric ones. The gas works are administratively under the Moravian-Silesian Gas Works (Moravskoslezské plynárny).
4. The electrical works for Opava are located in a building which is also used as a street car barn [Encl. (A), Point #5]. In some sections of the town the current was AC; in other parts, DC. Opava was supplied with electric power from the new plant in Svinov-Trebovice [4949N-1812E], which furnished power to a large area west of Opava and southwest of Ostrava. I understand that this plant was being enlarged. There seemed to be lack of control over the use of electricity; I often saw street lights burning during the day although some streets remained in total darkness at night. During the winter of 1951-1952, electrical power was shut off at night in both Opava and Nový Jičín.

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the power failure usually occurred between 1800 and 2000 hours and lasted at least half an hour, an hour, and sometimes longer. The reason given officially was that all electric power available during those hours was needed for factories. Placards were posted by the government asking the public to cut its power consumption to a minimum during those hours. Later, the government specified just which electrical appliances should not be used during the critical hours; with this came a threat that if the public did not comply with the regulations power would be cut off completely. "It's better to have rationed power than none at all" was the theme of posters which appeared in the streetcars; they occasioned much amusement as well as dissatisfaction. People always spoke of the candles they had ready "in case the lights go out tonight". In 1950 [redacted] said that electricity was rationed in the textile plant [redacted] in Krnov [5006N-1743E]; she attributed this to a breakdown in the Svinov-Trebovice power plant. She went on to say that repair would take six months. According to electricians the trouble was caused by a defective magnet or a bearing in the converter.

### Transportation

#### 5. There were two railroad stations in Opava:

- (a) The East Railway Station [Encl (A), Point #4] is the larger; it can accommodate five or six trains at one time. Facilities included an engine shed, locomotive turntable, a freight warehouse with a loading ramp for small freight, two platforms, and two coal warehouses. This station is used by trains going to Hlucin [4954N-1811E], Svinov [4949N-1812E] (express train), Horni Benesov [4958N-1736E], Hradec u Opavy [4952N-1753E], Krnov-Olomouc [5006N-1743E] (express train), Krnov-Hanusovice [5005N-1657E], and Prague (express train).
- (b) The West Station [Encl (A), Point #6] has only one platform and can accommodate three or four trains at one time. This station is used by trains going to Krnov-Olomouc and Prague.

#### 6. A new railroad bridge [Encl (A), Point #1] was completed in 1951 over the Opava-Kylesovice highway at the foot of the Kylesov Mountain. The railroad, which goes to Krnov, passes through an embankment at the point where it crosses the highway. The bridge consists of two traverses on top of reinforced concrete columns. The bridge is about 25 m. long, four to five m. wide and has low railings on each side. The original bridge was destroyed during World War II.

#### 7. Not far from the new bridge [See above], is an overpass [Encl (A), Point #8] where the Opava-Hradec u Opavy highway crosses the Opava-Krnov railroad. This overpass, older than the bridge [See above] is about seven m wide and 15 m. long.

#### 8. There is an old bridge [Encl (A), Point #9] over the Opava River between Opava and Katerinky [4957N-1755E]. There are arches on each side of the bridge, which is about 30 m. long and 10 m. wide. There is a narrow walk for pedestrians and a trolley track.

### Industrial Installations

#### 9. The following industrial installations are located in Opava:

- (a) There is an old factory [Encl (A), Point #10] in the city park which makes sacks from jute.
- (b) West of the above plant there is a small, old plant [Encl (A), Point #11] for making sewing machines called "Minerva".

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- (c) There are two candy factories Encl (A), Points # 12 and 13 in Opava.
- (d) There is a textile plant Encl (A), Point #14 located near the Opava River.
- (e) There is a refrigeration plant (mrazirna) Encl (A), Point #15 in the same location, near the skating rink, where there was a sugar refinery which burned down during World War II. The refrigeration plant, which is used to store meats and vegetables, was completed in 1951.
- (f) There is a warehouse Encl (A), Point #16 used for storing iron and metal goods located near the refrigeration plant See above.
- (g) The Ostroj plant Encl (A), Point #17 was being expanded as late as the Spring of 1952. This plant was slated to manufacture parts for sigma pumps. There were allegedly 150 persons employed in the plant. Another building Encl (A), Point #18 of the plant is located near the city gas works. This building is new, has two stories; I saw large drafting tables on which blueprints were drawn.
- (h) Two small plants Encl (A), Points #19 and 20 made razor blades known by the name Avod.
- (i) The brewery Encl (A), Point #21 produced Opava beer.

Military Installations

- 10. The New Caserne (Nove Kasarny) Encl (A), Point #22 is located in the suburb of Jaktar. The buildings, which were spread over a large area, were all old; to the best of my knowledge they had always housed the Infantry Reserve Training School. There were approximately two companies of infantry troops housed at the New Caserne in the Spring of 1952. The main building had four stories.
- 11. The Little Caserne Encl (A), Point #23 was rebuilt into a large military stockade in 1948-50. The building nearest the street remained as it was; in addition a large building with small, barred windows was constructed in the center of the large yard. The whole area was carefully guarded; it was surrounded by a high wall with barbed wire at the top and was brightly illuminated at night by several strong spotlights. high ranking military officers were imprisoned in the Little Caserne, and that these officers worked in the brick factory just opposite the prison and in the gypsum mines in Katerinky 4957N-1755E. Lt. Col. Pavelka was in charge of the gypsum mines.
- 12. A military hospital Encl (A), Point #24 is located next to the officers' prison Encl (A), Point #23.
- 13. Next door to the military hospital Encl (A), Point #24 is an elementary school Encl (A), Point #25 which has been rebuilt. In 1950, the school was ordered suddenly to move out, and one company of infantry moved in.

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14. A military training school Encl (A), Point #26 is located in two buildings, one of which was long and low and I believe is used for storage. The other building was constructed of red brick. Both buildings were guarded by armed soldiers. In early 1952 I was able to see inside the larger building from the street; I saw beds and portable black boards. During the Summer of 1951, I saw troops in back of these buildings training with a mounted weapon. The weapon was mounted on two rubber-tired wheels, had a small shield toward the front, and an aiming device; it came up to the shoulder of an average-sized man. There were four of these pieces in the yard; I heard that they were new anti-tank weapons.
15. There is a large firing range Encl (A), Point #27 in the city park. It is used for firing rifles, pistols, and light and heavy machine guns. There is a low building at one end where men fire from the prone position. Targets are placed at 100 m, 200 m, 300 m, and 400 m. There is communication by telephone between the targets and the building. The firing range has been located in the park since World War I.
16. On Olomoucka ulice, are several buildings Encl (A), Point #28 which formerly served as an artillery caserne. In 1949, approximately a battalion of infantry was quartered there. I do not know what the buildings have been used for since that time.
17. The Opava City Garrison Headquarters is located in a three-story building Encl (A), Point #29 on Red Army Square (Namesti Rude Armady). The building contains a small hall used for meetings, speeches, and dances.
18. An ammunition storage dump Encl (A), Point #30 is located in a field just outside Opava. Small arms ammunition was stored under three large piles of dirt nearby. The whole area was heavily guarded.
19. "Svata Anna", Encl (A), Point #31 is the combat training area for troops in the Opava area. Actual combat conditions are simulated, including the use of trenches.

#### Miscellaneous

20. The Opava municipal hospital Encl (A), Point #32 is large and quite modern.

Enclosure (A): Opava (not drawn to scale)

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ENCLOSURE (A)

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